

Technical Bulletin

Brick Cleaning Information

To achieve proper appearance, brick work needs to be cleaned after installation. The bucket and brush method or the EacoChem Low Pressure EC Jet process, using agents recommended by General Shale, is preferred. If other methods or materials are used, it is strongly suggested they be tested for suitability on disposable panels of noncritical wall areas. This is especially important when pressure washing is used.

1. Keep the wall as clean as possible during construction in order to reduce the amount of cleaning necessary later.
2. For best results cleaning should be performed as soon as possible, **but not until**, initial mortar set has occurred, (typically 2-5 days). The heavier mortar stains should be removed as completely as possible by mechanical means (paddles, scrapers, brushes, etc.)
3. Select cleaning agent according to the following brick categories:
 - A. **Category A brick** may be cleaned with an all-purpose commercial cleaning agent (at manufacturers recommended concentration). NMD-80 manufactured by EacoChem Inc. is recommended.
 - B. **Category B brick** may be subject to metallic staining and discoloration if abusively cleaned with ordinary proprietary cleaners. EacoChem Inc. NMD-80 is recommended (at manufacturers recommended concentration).
 - C. **Category C brick** have acid reactive coatings and may be subject to color range change if cleaned with acid-based cleaners. Non-acidic cleaners such as 1/2 cup tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) and 1/2 cup of laundry detergent per gallon of water is recommended for removal of general construction dirt.

Recommended Cleaning Chemicals			
Manufacturer	Category A	Category B	Category C
EaCo Chem	NMD-80	NMD-80	½ Cup TSP ½ Cup Laundry Detergent (Per 1 Gallon of Water)

4. If category classification is unknown, contact the local brick distributor, dealer, or General Shale representative.
5. Test clean – Select an inconspicuous wall area to confirm method and cleaning agents are satisfactory. Make adjustments as indicated.
6. Pre-wet masonry – Thoroughly pre-wet wall area to be cleaned. The moisture absorbing capacity of the masonry must be satisfied before cleaners are applied.
7. Clean – Apply cleaning agent to masonry and scrub brick faces with stiff fiber brush.
8. Rinse – Before cleaning agents can dry or be absorbed into masonry, rinse cleaner, dissolved mortar, and loosened dirt completely off the masonry wall.

General Shale disclaims any and all responsibility for damages resulting from cleaning methods and materials. Failure to follow above cleaning recommendations will void product warranty.

Note: Additional brick cleaning information and guidelines for pressure washing methods can be found in the BIA (Brick Institute of America) Technical Note Number 20.

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